Expansion of NCDC

188. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to expand National Co-operative Development Corporation, in order to work out a vibrant co-operative structure;

(b) if so, the details of the initiative; and

(c) what are the existing problems being faced by this sector and the action plan of Government to redress these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The National Co-operative Development Corporation Act, 1962 has been amended through the NCDC (Amendment) Act, 2002 which came into effect from 16.9.2002. The amendment to the NCDC Act enables diversification of the NCDC activities in the areas of livestock, fisheries, agro-forestry sericulture, horticulture and service sectors. Now, NCDC is able to undertake direct financing to cooperate institutions against security without State/Central Government guarantee. Also, the NCDC can augment its resources by receiving gifts, donations, grants from Government or any other agency in India and abroad.

(c) The existing problems being faced by the cooperative sector concerns the vital aspects of working of co-operative link lack of democratic functioning, professional management, accountability to members, timely and professional audit, timely conduct of general body meetings and elections etc. These are being proposed to be addressed through a constitutional amendment as per the Common Minimum Programme of the Government.

Impact of global warming on rice production

189. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the recent findings that the global warming has cut rice harvest by atleast 10 per cent whereas the rice production has to rise by one per cent every year;

(b) whether this trend will affect Indian farmers; and

(c) the details of rice production in the country during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise?